(a) whether it is a fact that a high level team comprising the Central and State Government official reviewed the KBK development schemes in Orissa;

(b) whether they have submitted any report; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) to (c) A two-Member team from the Prime Minister's Office visited KBK districts from 10th-14th April, 2000 alongwith Officers of the Government of Orissa. The team, in its tour report, has made observations about Emergency Feeding Programme, Capacity of local administration to take up various programmes, Watershed Development Programme, Collection of Minor Forest Produce, Alleviation of agricultural land by non-Tribals, Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS), Health Issues, Administrative Issues, Public Distribution System and the role of NGO's besides some general issues.

Decline in production of cotton textiles

†448. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of cotton textiles in India has gradually declined during the last ten years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to restore the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (b) The production of cotton cloth in the country fluctuated during the last ten years. The production of cotton cloth during the years 1991-92, 1994-95 and 1998-99 declined over the corresponding previous years. However, the production of cotton cloth during the year 1999-2000 has shown higher growth as compared to 1998-99, still it was lower than that of 1996-97 and 1997-98. The productions of cotton cloth, largely depends on—availability and prices of raw cotton as raw material, cost of other inputs, demand in the domestic and international markets and imports.

(c) In order to improve the production of cotton textiles in the country, the government has lanuched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) to improve the production, productivity and quality of cotton, ensuring the availability of quality cotton to the textile mills. For modernisation of textile and jute industries including cotton textile industries, the Technology

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched w.e.f., 1.4.99 for a period of 5 years. A chain of textile testing laboratories have been set up to help industry in assessing the quality of textiles. For import of capital goods, the Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme has been simplified. Import of cotton is also under OGL to help industry to import requisite quality of raw cotton.

Representation for non-closure of Amarsinh Ji Mills in Gujarat

449. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been made not to allow Amarsinh Ji Mills at Wankarner, Gujarat to close down;

(b) if so, when;

(c) what steps Government have taken to see that none of the departments of the mill is closed and workers of the mill retrenched; and

(d) whether it is a fact that under the pretext of the notice of Central Pollution Control Board the management of Kores India Limited is misleading the workers and the general public that the Government are forcing them to close down the unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Ministry of Textiles has not received any representation requesting not to allow Amarsinh Ji Mills at Wankarner, Gujarat to close down. However, the Mill has informed the O/o Textile Commissioner, Mumbai, that as per the directives of the Central Pollution Control Board and the Gujarat Pollution Control Board, the mill has closed down the process house and its related departments from 22.6.2000. Ministry of Textiles has also not received any information that under the pretext of the notice of Central Pollution Control Board the management of Kores India Limited is misleading the workers and the general public that the Government are forcing them to close down the unit.

Clearance for Selling NTC Land

450. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:
SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state: